

ABSTRACT

Process for the preparation of beads comprising a crosslinked inorganic matrix

The invention relates to a process for the preparation of beads comprising a crosslinked inorganic matrix and to the beads obtained.

The process consists in preparing gelled beads by pouring a suspension comprising a precursor of the inorganic matrix and an alginate dropwise into a solution of a polyvalent cation salt, the pH of which is less than 3, and in crosslinking the precursor of the inorganic matrix by a sol-gel process.

The process is of particular use for the preparation of crosslinked silica or alumina beads having a size of the order of a millimeter.